

Application No.: 10/659203
Docket No.: AD6930USNA

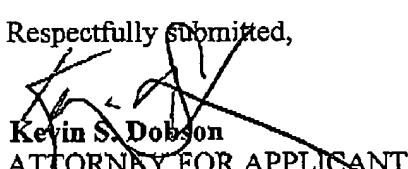
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REMARKS

The claims presented in the previous response were Finally rejected as anticipated under 35 USC 102, or alternatively under 35 USC 103 as obvious in view of Hirose. Amendments to the claims have been made considering the fact that the cited reference (Hirose) is limited to at most 40 wt% of a synthetic resin. The reference states that compositions having greater than 40 wt% of the synthetic resin would not be suitable for making parts that would provide desirable properties. Therefore the claims as amended in this communication are to compositions having at least 50 wt% of thermoplastic material. The claims as amended are clearly outside of the actual scope of Hirose, and not obvious from the teaching provided therein. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification where none of the examples of the present invention comprise less than 50 wt% of the thermoplastic material, but most notably at page 16, Table 5 (Sample No. 52) where the graphite, carbon fiber and mica account for 50 wt% of the total composition, and the thermoplastic material accounts for the remaining 50 wt% of the total composition.

The amendment to Claim 8 is to clarify the claim in a manner that establishes that the intended scope is limited to milled carbon fiber which is known to have a shorter length than chopped fiber. The limitation to length of the carbon fiber has been removed in view of the fact that the absolute length of the fiber is not the important distinguishing feature, but rather that the relatively short fibers obtained by milling provide better performance than the longer fibers obtained from chopping fibers. The difference in the COF of the two types of carbon fiber is apparent from the examples of the specification, specifically in Tables 3 and 4 at pages 14 and 15, respectively.

All other amendments are formal in nature. In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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